29th September 1961] [Sri V. Ramaiah]

With a view to considering the question of fair prices of yarn an informal meeting of representatives of some State Governments with the Government of India was held at New Delhi in October 1960. The Government of India have been referred the question of devising a formula for fixing ex-mill and retail prices of yarn to the Tariff Commission. Only on the receipt of its recommendation will it be possible to see whether any reduction in the prices of yarn is feasible. At the instance of the Minister for Industries, a Conference of representatives of handloom weavers was convened at Coimbatore on 24—6—1961 to discuss the scarcity and high prices of certain varities of yarn. The following decisions were taken at the Conference :—

(1) So far as co-operative societies are concerned, the arrangements now made by the President of the State Society with the South India Mill Owners' Association whereby societies would be enabled to obtain yarn at ex-mill rates, be continued.

(2) In regard to supply of yarn to weavers outside the co-operative fold, the Director of Handlooms might check the accounts of the associations through his field staff and allotments of yarn to the associations would be made on the basis of the recommendations of the Director of Handlooms. This arrangement might be tried for a period of three months in the first instance.

(3) Yarn to weavers outside the co-operative fold will be supplied at ex-mill rate plus one per cent profit plus tax and frieght.

(4) The retail rates of lower counts of yarn would be published in the newspapers for the benefit of the independent weavers.

(5) If there are any difficulties in implementing the above decision, the question of opening retail depots by the mills might be considered.

The latest trend of yarn price is downward. The restoration of power cut and the onset of monsoon has slackened the up-country demand. Fine counts value have declined. The price of Egyptian cotton is also reported to have gone down and the market is said to be weak. Generally it is said that there are more sellers than buyers.

The Government have not spared any efforts to bring down the prices of yarn.

IV. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS.

(1) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, I, Chairman, Committee on Subordinate Legislation, present the Seventeenth Report (Second Assembly) of the Committee.